GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:353
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2015
Uranium Sources
Patel Shri Prahlad Singh

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD) has explored some more uranium reserves and if so, the details thereof, Statewise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to upgrade the exploration capacity of AMD and also induct new/latest technologies for mapping purpose;

(c) if so, the details and financial implications thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase the exploration and research capacity of AMD for identifying the uranium reserves in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

(a)Yes Sir. During the last six months, Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a constituent unit of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has proved 4,000 tonnes of in situ U_3O_8 (3392 tonnes U) reserves. As of November, 2015, AMD has established 2,29,936 tonnes in-situ U_3O_8 (1,94,985 tonnes Uranium) reserves.

State-wise details of the uranium reserves established during the last six months are given below:

State District Name of the deposit Uranium Reserves
As on May 2015 As on November 2015
U_3O_8 U U_3O_8 U
(tonnes) (tonnes) (tonnes) (tonnes)
Andhra Pradesh Kadapa Tummalapalle-Rachakuntapalle

98,952 98,952 1,02,952 87,303 [1 tonne of U_3O_8 = 0.848 tonnes of uranium metal]

(b) & (c)Yes Sir. The Government has already initiated modernization of exploration capacity of AMD by procuring state-of-the-art instruments/equipments like Hydrostatic drill rigs, Mobile geochemical vans, Heliborne Time Domain Electro-Magnetic (TDEM) system, Seismic Reflection-Refraction system, GPS based magnetometer, Video-conferencing system and Multi-para borehole logging system, ICP-OES etc. in the early years of XII Plan. The Government has already approved a total Plan Outlay for AMD to the tune of Rs.831.48 crore for XII Plan period (2012-2017).

(d)To increase the exploration and research capacity of AMD for identifying additional uranium reserves in the country, the Government has formulated new projects involving Rs.831.48 crore during XII Plan period (2012-2017). The capacity increase includes enhancement of (i) drilling meterage by departmental machines, (ii) heliborne and ground geophysical surveys, and (iii) analytical support with the help of latest state-of-the-art instruments/equipments.

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